

County DIGEST



AUGUST 1999

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Cato R. Fiksdal *Agricultural Commissioner Director of Weights & Measures*



At the age of five, his family migrated from Norway to the United States on the invitation of his uncle. Since then, he has enjoyed traveling the world, just like the insects and pests he has been directed to monitor and to some extent, eradicate.

Cato R. Fiksdal was appointed Agricultural Commissioner/ Director of Weights and Measures in November 1998 by the Board of Supervisors. Prior to his selection, he was Chief Deputy to the director with the responsibility of managing and supervising the daily operation of the 270-person department.

Fiksdal plans on hiring many new inspectors because of a large infusion of State monies negotiated earlier this year, as well as integrating the staffs of the Weights and Measures and Agricultural parts of the department. There are more honey bees, fruit flies and fire ants to combat and more gas pumps, odometers, scales and scanners to measure than ever before. He also looks forward to the department's move to a new building.

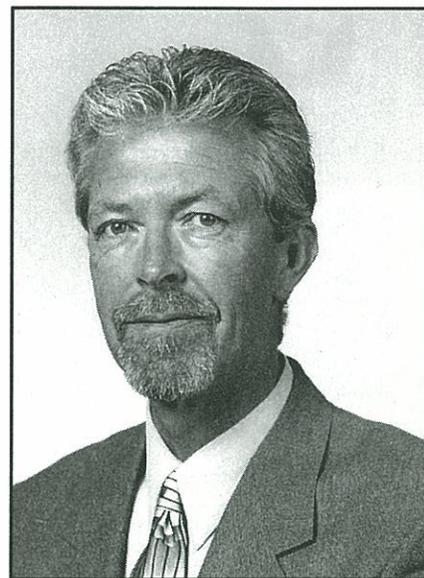
His fascination with bugs is evident by the many organizations he is involved with. He organized the California Association of Standards and Agricultural Professionals and served as an officer in the Southern California Deputy Commissioners and Sealers Association, the Los Angeles County Agricultural Inspectors Association, the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association

and is a liaison to the Pest Control Operators of California and the California Structural Pest Control Board.

Fiksdal has taught Pest Control Certification, has lectured on Pest Control Regulation throughout California and founded the Palisades Enrichment Program, a non-profit organization supporting and funding enrichment programs in local elementary schools in the Pacific Palisades area. He also started the Structural Pesticide Use Inspections Program, the first in the state and continues to be the expert on Structural Pest Control Regulatory Matters in California.

Having served in Vietnam as a Sergeant and Squad Leader in the U.S. Army, he was eligible for a variety of veterans programs which he took advantage of. It was through one of these programs that he landed his first "real" job after college as an agricultural inspector for the Agricultural Commissioner of the County of Los Angeles. He has been with the same department for the past 27 years.

Though he has traveled extensively visiting more than 20 countries and 40 states, he still finds California and Los Angeles County in particular the best place to live. Besides, it was in Venice where he learned his first English word "Joe," the name of the boy who lived across from his house. He fondly remembers growing up with many interesting experiences only an



immigrant could relate to.

Aside from traveling, Fiksdal enjoys hang gliding, kayaking, bungi jumping, sky diving, as well as politics, history, theater and good conversation. He admires Harry Truman's tenacity and Thomas Jefferson's willingness to force change.

When asked how he would like to be remembered, he said, "recall me as I am." Besides, how can one easily forget the name Cato, a Roman statesman?

Calendar of Events

The Arboretum of Los Angeles County
(626) 821-3222

Festival on the Green
August 28, 1999
5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Fern & Exotic Plant Show and Sale
September 4 and 5, 1999
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

John Anson Ford Theatre
(323) 461-3673
www.lacountyarts.org/ford.html



From Broadway to the Silver Screen
August 29, 1999
7:30 p.m.

Department of Public Works
(626) 458-3566
<http://dpw.co.la.ca.us>

Household Hazardous Waste Collection
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
September 11, 1999
900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra

Commission for Women
(213) 974-1455

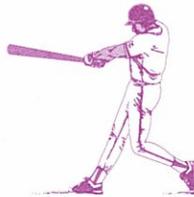


1st Annual 5K Run/Walk & Health Expo
September 25, 1999
Rose Bowl

Pomona Fairplex
(909) 865-4050
www.fairplex.com

Los Angeles County Fair
September 9 through 26, 1999

US Savings Bond Campaign
(213) 974-2523



LA Dodgers vs. NY Mets
September 11, 1999
7:05 p.m.

Community & Senior Services
(800) 510-2020

Inter-generational Health Fair
August 14 and 15, 1999
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
11301 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles

County DIGEST

Dept. of Human Resources
500 W. Temple Street,
Room 375
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1765
(213) 613-4789 FAX

<http://hr.co.la.ca.us>



Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, a former recipient of California State University, Los Angeles' Outstanding Alumnus Award, presents the 1998 award to Stephen L. Cooley. The honoree is a head deputy district attorney with the Welfare Fraud Division of the District Attorney's Office.

AUGUST Retirees

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of Los Angeles County:

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: Sharron L. Pinnell, Edward Weinman

FIRE: Don H. Letts, Lon L. Caskey, Steven J. Dahlmeier, John W. Everett, Stephen L. Watson, Thomas M. Whalen, Roy L. Wilson, Daniel S. Amman

HEALTH SERVICES: Patricia C. Barrett, Epifania P. Bejar, Charleen A. Durkee, Frances A. Faulkner, Dorothy L. Green, Reva J. Heard, Margaret Maloney, Frank L. Rico, Mary H. Story

INTERNAL SERVICES: Robert J. Graham, Charlene A. Kelley, Toby King

MUNICIPAL COURTS: Anthony C. Filosa

PROBATION: Charles R. Hamson, Julian Regalado

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Ivolene M. Brewster, Nora Clark, Michele T. Lowe

PUBLIC WORKS: Merle Frederickson

SHERIFF: Thomas A. Budds, Robert W. Levingston, Michael R. Portesi

SUPERIOR COURTS: Herbert R. Cannon

Congratulations to the following employees who are retiring after serving the people of the County of Los Angeles for more than 25 years:

BEACHES & HARBORS: Richard A. Duarte

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: Linda Kuczera, Suzanne Poth

COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Agatupu Tupua

CONSUMER AFFAIRS: Gregorio Pancho

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Christene Henderson, Nellie Mora, Rizalina M. Sabalburu

FIRE: John W. Parris

HEALTH SERVICES: Marta E. Chavez, Cristeta L. Dimalanta, Carmen M. Ferrer, Ryo Hashiguchi, Vera L. Hawkins, Delia M. Lujan, Margaret M. Murphy, Esperanza Portillo, Josephine Rodriguez, Wanda L. Tom, Felipa B. Wood

HUMAN RESOURCES: Arthur F. Chapman

INTERNAL SERVICES: Gloria E. Graves, Trudy A. Ririe

PROBATION: Rudy V. Berumen, Argo J. Hyman

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Matilda C. Sabal

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Rosalie Alva, Kamal Fakhoury, Donna K. Perlman, Walter S. Sims, Mercedes Spindola, Vernetta Supall, E Velazco-Brei

PUBLIC WORKS: Elaine W. Fong, Alton Martin, Donald S. Ownbey

SHERIFF: David L. Christie, Eugene R. Encinas, Irene P. Garcia

Address Change



If you have changed your mailing address, please notify your Personnel Office immediately.

Charitable Giving Campaign



Supervisor Knabe is joined by David Janssen (right) and representatives from the County's Charitable Giving Campaign partners.

Chairman Don Knabe and Chief Administrative Officer David Janssen presented a "check" for \$1,628,108 to County campaign partners United Way, Brotherhood Crusade, Asian Pacific Community Fund, Earth Share, LA Women's Foundation and United Latino Fund at a recognition ceremony in the Board Room in April. Last year was a turn around year for Charitable Giving with a 4.8 percent total dollar increase and an increase of 6.2 percent new donors on payroll deduction.

Congratulations to the Office of Assessor, Chief Administrative Office, Internal Services Department and Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for having the highest percentage of employees contributing through payroll deductions. Kudos also to the Departments of Auditor-Controller, Mental Health, Public Social Services and Regional Planning for achieving the largest cash donations. Supervisor Knabe presented plaques and scrolls to Department Heads and Campaign Coordinators for spearheading a successful operation.

The County's 1999 Campaign will begin on August 16 and end on September 30 during which time employees will have the opportunity to lend their support through payroll deduction and departmental fundraisers.

There will also be an "Employee Day at Dodger Stadium" on Saturday, August 28, at 1:05 p.m. featuring the Dodgers vs. the Chicago Cubs. Tickets are priced at \$6.50 and children 14 and under will receive a "Back to School Binder Set." For further information, contact your departmental coordinator or call (213) 974-2466.

Carol Mentell

The Voice of Reason

It was an equally proud day not only for the honoree but also for her boss, District Attorney Gil Garcetti.

"She not only calms the caller down but also assists in solving her problem," said Mr. Garcetti in reference to Carol Mentell, the July 1999 County Employee of the Month.



Carol Mentell receives her scroll from Chairman Don Knabe.

Mentell, an Area Administrator with the Bureau of Family Support Operations, supervises the Call Center which is responsible for receiving all telephone calls regarding child support cases in Los Angeles County.

The 30-year County employee is a staunch supporter of the Bureau. She started working in child support in the 70s and has been involved since then.

"Everything about the program is right for me," Mentell said. "It is ethically, morally and legally right to enforce child support."

During her tenure as Public Inquiry Coordinator for the Bureau, she acted as spokesperson with the responsibility of coordinating responses to VIPs

questions about child support.

She has directed a small version of the Call Center that laid the foundation for the present one. When the current Center began operation, she took the lead in establishing its structure and direction and overseeing more than 200 employees.

The success of the Center is due partly to Mentell's contributions. She has aided in the development of a timeline and tracking system to answer questions from the general public, as well as government officials.

"I believe that I have made contributions instrumental in bringing improved customer relations within the Bureau and the public we serve," Mentell said.

Among the many government officials she has dealt with, she credits the current District Attorney not only for his commitment to child support but also for the impact he has on her in placing child support as a priority.

"Mr. Garcetti has made a commitment to improve child support and has kept his word by getting us the tools and staffing we need," Mentell said.

Aside from gardening, sewing and needlepoint, traveling tops her list of fun things to do. She has been to Austria, Switzerland, Greece, Kenya, Spain and China to name a few. New Zealand is next on her agenda.

The award, she said, demonstrates a conscientious commitment to meet the demands of the taxpayer and the Office of District Attorney.

Congratulations!



General members are encouraged to vote in the upcoming LACERA election for the Second Members of the Board of Investments and the Board of Retirement on Tuesday, October 12, 1999.

Using the employee's address on the Auditor-Controller's master file, ballots will be mailed via US mail on Friday, August 20. If you do not receive an original ballot, you may request a duplicate ballot through your departmental election coordinator before September 27. The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk must receive ballots before 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 12. The Board of Supervisors will certify the election results at its meeting on Tuesday, November 2.

For more information, contact your departmental election coordinator.



Members of the Board

Don Knabe
Chairman
Fourth District

Gloria Molina
First District

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

Michael J. Henry
Director of Personnel

Sandra A. Hoodye
Ombudsman/Community Liaison

John S. Mina
Staff